



Amphill Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

for the

YEAR 1950

of the

*Medical Officer of Health*

and of the

*Sanitary Inspector*

M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

T. A. HAWTIN, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the health, vital statistics, and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Rural District for the year 1950.

Inspection of the vital statistics shows that both the birth rate and the death rate compare favourably with corresponding rates for England and Wales; and it is also satisfactory to note that only five infant deaths occurred during the year.

Measles again was prevalent, the greatest number of cases occurring in the second quarter of the year, after which the epidemic slowly died down. Nearly one third of these cases fell in the 5-10 age group: an important factor since pulmonary complications are more liable to occur in the earlier years of life. Apart from two small localised outbreaks, the cases of scarlet fever occurred at intervals throughout the year. One case of poliomyelitis was reported. There were no deaths from infectious disease.

One of the problems in public health today is the role of the aged in modern society. The 1951 census will enable an exact computation of age groups to be made, but a national assessment shows that there is approximately one person over 65 for every six persons of the 15-65 year age group, and it is estimated that this proportion will increase to one to four or even one to three in the next quarter of a century. This is of considerable importance; for although hospital services for old people are provided by the regional hospital board, while the domiciliary help afforded by the nursing services and home-helps scheme comes within the ambit of the County Council, yet their housing requirements remain the concern of the local authority.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials of the District Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

9th August, 1951.

# Amphill Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1950

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY :—

1. *Medical Officer of Health*.—M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
2. *Clerk*.—H. ROBINSON.
3. *Surveyor*.—C. A. LEWIS, A.M. Inst. Mun. E., M.R. San. I.
4. *Sanitary Inspector*.—T. A. HAWTIN, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
5. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*.—W. J. FOLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
6. *Housing Inspector*.—W. W. GILLET.

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	—	—	—	—	—	—	62,553
Population—Census for 1931	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,483
Population in 1950 (estimated mid-year)	—	—	—	—	—	—	22,560
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,954
Rateable Value	—	—	—	—	—	—	£113,915
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	—	—	—	—	—	—	£460/9/9

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Flitwick is largely a dormitory area for Luton and Bedford, many travelling by rail daily to the factories and offices in the towns. Other parishes on the main rail and bus routes also add their quota. The engineering factories:—Vauxhall Motors, Commer Cars, Skefko, etc., at Luton—draw a large quantity of labour from the district.

The brickworks at Lidlington and Ridgmont, and at Stewartby just inside the Bedford Rural District, are the principal employers in the North and West, and there are also light engineering factories at Cranfield and Aspley Guise. Other large factories and employers in the District are the Bovril and Ebonite Works at Houghton Conquest, the tool factory at Westoning, and the brushworks and a timber yard at Flitwick. The Aeronautical Training College at Cranfield and National Institute of Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe have large staffs, and the R.A.F. Aerodrome on the border inside the Biggleswade Rural District has added to the population of the hamlet of Lower Stondon which adjoins the establishment.

Preliminary explorations have been made with a view to the development of a factory in the Millbrook—Flitwick area, and the project has been welcomed by both this and the Ampthill Urban Council. If this materialises it will have a definite bearing on the character of Flitwick and the surrounding parishes.

On the light sandy soil around Maulden, Flitwick, Flitton and Clophill, intensive market gardening is the principal local occupation. There is a growing tendency here to remove hedges and trees, presumably to increase the area under cultivation, which is affecting the character of the land, and which, unless a little restraint is exercised, may mar the beauty of the countryside.

Agriculture generally finds employment for the major part of the remaining labour in the other parishes. There are attractive residential areas at Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn, and also at Flitwick and Silsoe, where many retired persons have made their homes, and from a scenic point of view the district as a whole is one of the most attractive and beautiful areas in Bedfordshire.

Unemployment during the year has been negligible.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	382	200	182	{ The Crude Birth rate was 17·8 per 1000 of resident population.
	{ Illegitimate	19	13	6	
	Total	401	213	188	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	12	6	6	{ Stillbirth rate 29·1 per 1000 Births (live and still).
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	Total	12	6	6	
Deaths	—	221	113	108	{ Crude Death rate 9·8 per 1000 resident population. Adjusted death rate: 8·9.

Birth rate for England and Wales was 15·8 per total population.

Stillbirth rate for England and Wales was 22·6 per total population.

Death rate for England and Wales was 11·6 per total population.

	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	—
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—
8. Measles .. .. .	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	4	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	17	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	1
16. Diabetes .. .. .	1	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	8	17
18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	12	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	2	4
20. Other heart disease .. .. .	18	27
21. Other circulatory disease .. .. .	7	3
22. Influenza .. .. .	—	1
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	5	1
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	8	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	1	—
26. Ulcer, stomach and duodenum .. .. .	3	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	1
31. Congenital malformations .. .. .	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	11	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	5	—
34. All other accidents .. .. .	4	3
35. Suicide .. .. .	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—
37. All causes .. .. .	113	108

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

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### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Town Hall, Luton.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory undertakes the examination of material, e.g. throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the District have been acquainted of these facilities.

### 2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are re-imbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

### 3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

The County Council is responsible under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the provision of these Services and employs the nurses and midwives in the district. Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee. The nurses are qualified both in nursing and midwifery, acting as nurse midwives and, with one exception, all have a motor car. The nurses are distributed as follows :—



Ridgmont, Aspley Guise, Husborne Crawley, Aspley Heath—Nurse Davies \*†  
 Cranfield, Salford, Hulcote and Lidlington—Nurse Knight\*\*†  
 Flitwick, Steppingley—Nurse Kearns\*†  
 Gravenhurst, Higham Gobion, Shillington—Nurse McEnroe\*†  
 Marston Moretaine—Nurse Alcock\*†  
 Millbrook—Nurse Evans\*†  
 Maulden, Clophill—Nurse Wagstaff\*†  
 Tingrith, Woburn, Eversholt, Woburn Sands, Potsgrove, Milton Bryan, Battlesden—  
 Nurse Hyde\*\*†  
 Harlington, Westoning, Pulloxhill, Silsoe, Flitton—Nurse Butcher\*†  
 Houghton Conquest—Nurse Minnis\*†  
 Haynes—Nurse Minnis\*† (part). Nurse Wagstaff\*† (part).

\*\*—S.R.N. \*—State Enrolled Assistant Nurse. †—S.C.M.

#### 4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

##### *Infant Welfare Clinics :—*

Amphill Public Assistance Institution ..	Friday, 2 p.m.
Cranfield Memorial Hall .. .. .	Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Marston Methodist School .. .. .	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Ridgmont Village Hall .. .. .	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Woburn Town Hall .. .. .	Alternate Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Shillington Congregational Schoolroom	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Haynes Church Hall .. .. .	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Aspley Guise .. .. .	Alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Flitwick .. .. .	Friday, 2 p.m.

##### *Ante-Natal Clinic :—*

Shillington Congregational Schoolroom, alternate Thursdays,  
 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

##### *Venereal Disease Clinic :—*

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
Bedford County Hospital (Amphill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4—8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6.0 p.m. Wednesday, 5.0—7 p.m. Thursday, 6.0 p.m. Friday, 3.0—5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance: Mondays, 5-6.30 p.m., Wednesdays, 5-7.30 p.m.  
 Fridays, 2.30-5.30 p.m.

##### *Chest Clinic.*

The Chest Clinic is situated in Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Bedford.  
 The Physician in Charge is of consultant status and is in daily attendance. Patients  
 are seen by appointment only, except in the case of emergency.

For consultation in special cases, at the discretion of the Physician in Charge, Dr. Lee Lander, Consultant Physician, Brompton Hospital, visits the area for one session each fortnight.

The hours of the Clinic are as follows :—

Monday, 2 p.m.—3.30 p.m. Pneumothorax refills.

Monday, 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Ditto (workers).

Tuesday morning and afternoon. Women and children.

Wednesday morning and afternoon. Contacts (both sexes).

Thursday morning and afternoon. Men.

Friday, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Pneumothorax refills.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

### ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act 1890. Part III. Sec. 28.

Public Health Amendment Act 1907.

Part II, Secs. 15, 16, 17 (Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick and Maulden).

Part IV, Secs. 53, 54 (Whole District).

### BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Building Byelaws.

Water Regulations and Charges.

Sluughter Houses.

## RAINFALL.

The station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain gauge is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude  $52^{\circ} 1' N$ . Longitude  $0^{\circ} 35' W$ .

### WOBURN.

1950 MONTH.	TOTAL INS.	GREATEST RAINFALL IN 24 HOURS		NO. OF DAYS WITH .01" OR MORE	NO. OF DAYS WITH .04" OR MORE
		INCHES	DATE		
January .. ..	0.65	0.20	30th	10	5
February .. ..	3.68	0.66	12th	18	15
March .. ..	0.69	0.12	22nd	12	7
April .. ..	1.96	0.57	17th	18	13
May .. ..	4.61	1.77	21st	13	10
June .. ..	1.58	0.54	22nd	6	6
July .. ..	5.34	1.61	3rd	17	13
August .. ..	2.59	0.57	15th	18	13
September .. ..	3.10	0.45	23rd	22	15
October .. ..	0.50	0.24	30th	6	3
November .. ..	4.27	0.75	20th	22	18
December .. ..	1.40	0.28	10th	16	10
	30.37			178	128

## WREST PARK, SILSOE.

1950 MONTH	TOTAL INS.	GREATEST RAINFALL IN 24 HOURS		NO. OF DAYS WITH .01" OR MORE	NO. OF DAYS WITH .04" OR MORE
		INCHES	DATE		
January .. ..	.73	.26	31st	7	4
February .. ..	3.18	.53	2 d	17	14
March .. ..	.47	.10	17th	9	9
April .. ..	1.69	.55	17th	17	11
May .. ..	3.10	1.17	21st	13	9
June .. ..	1.30	.39	13th	7	4
July .. ..	4.73	1.67	3rd	16	12
August .. ..	2.67	.62	28th	16	11
September .. ..	2.65	.52	15th	21	13
October .. ..	.36	.17	30th	5	4
November .. ..	4.34	.76	20th	23	18
December .. ..	.95	.21	10th	13	8
	26.17			164	117

## RAINFALL IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Woburn.	England & Wales.
1941	25.52	33.8
1942	19.49	35.9
1943	19.09	33.4
1944	22.33	35.3
1945	20.65	33.27
1946	28.24	41.6
1947	18.46	35.23
1948	28.36	37.62
1949	20.28	30.93
1950	30.37	40.2

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann of the Woburn Experimental Farm for supplying me with the rainfall at Woburn, and the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## 1. WATER SUPPLY.

The three principal sources of supply continue to be used :—

- (a) Aspley Guise (Birchmoor) Water Works.  
Boreholes in greensand, chlorinated before delivery to the mains.  
Twenty-one parishes are supplied from these works.
- (b) Ampthill U.D.C. waterworks at Clophill.  
Boreholes in greensand, water softened, filtered and chlorinated at work.  
Supplies are taken for three parishes, Clophill, Maulden and Haynes.
- (c) The Duke of Bedford's Water Works at Husborne Crawley—supplying two parishes.

All mains except those in connection with (c) above and the parishes of Woburn, Milton Bryan and Potsgrove on the Ducal Estate are owned by the Council.

Higham Gobion, Potsgrove and Battlesden, with populations of 40, 100 and 700 respectively, are the only parishes not covered by piped supplies, and the Council has the matter

constantly under review with the definite intention of affording supplies to them when conditions allow. Some premises at Battlesden on the Ducal Estate take a supply from the Bucks. Water Board's Works in the parish.

The analyst reported on samples as follows:—

Supply (a)—Aspley Guise—(Domestic tap, Cranfield)—taken 25th Jan., 1950.  
Chemical results in parts per million.

Appearance	Bright with a few mineral particles.
Colour	Nil.
Reaction pH	5.9
Electric conductivity at 20°C	185
Chlorine in Chlorides	17
Hardness	Total ..... 50
	Carbonate (temporary)..... 25
	Non-Carbonate (Permanent) ..... 25
Nitrogen in Nitrates	6.4
Free ammonia	0.00
Albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Metals	0.05 Iron (other metals absent).
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 5.
Odour	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	35
Total solids dried at 180°C	125
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	25
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent
Oxygen, absorbed in 4hrs.	at 27°C—0.00
Residual chlorine	0.15

Supply b). Amptill U.D.C. supply (Domestic Tap, Maulden), taken 17th Aug., 1950.  
Chemical results in parts per million.

Appearance—Bright with a very slight mineral deposit.	
Colour	Nil.
Reaction pH	8.2
Electric Conductivity	395
Chlorine as Chloride	26
Hardness—Total	190
Carbonate	90
Non-Carbonate	100
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.00
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00
Metals—Iron	0.04 (other metals absent)
Turbidity	Less than 3
Odour	Faintly oily.
Free Carbon Dioxide	Absent.
Total Solids	265
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	90
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Absent.

Other chemical analyses taken from various points of the supply from both sources during the year, yielded similar results.

Quarterly samples for bacteriological examination were submitted. Except for two results (one from supply (a), and one from supply (b)) giving Bact. coli (Type 1) present in 50 ml. and 100 ml. all showed Bact. coli absent from 100 ml. The two samples referred to were taken from external taps, and an immediate second sample

from the standpipe gave a completely clear report (no colonies developing in 3 days at 20°C) and the first results were probably due to non-sterile taps.

Samples from supply (c) were reported satisfactory by the bacteriologist.

The soft water from the Aspley Guise source has a plumbo-solvent action, and lead piping is not used in the area supplied. Amphthill U.D.C. water is moderately hard and is not plumbo-solvent.

#### *Private Wells.*

Samples were taken for bacteriological examination from 9 private wells with the following results :—

Good 3 ; Not up to standard 2 ; Unfit for drinking purposes 4.

### PARTICULARS OF NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES AND POPULATION WITH PIPED SUPPLY.

		Estimated Population June, 1960.	Number of Houses.	Houses with water direct.	Served by stand- pipe on private supply	Served by public stand-pipe (spring)	Pop. supplied to premises	Pop. supplied by stand-pipe.
B	Aspley Guise ..	1480	502	492			1450	
B	Aspley Heath ..	430	128	128			430	
	Battlesden ..	70	19	1	7		2	24
A	Clophill ..	950	285	180			576	
B	Cranfield ..	1975	532	449			1639	
B	Eversholt ..	460	160	128			359	
B	Flitton ..	650	193	136			451	
B	Flitwick ..	2405	811	630			1990	
B	Gravenhurst ..	450	137	101			329	
B	Harlington ..	620	216	200			591	
A	Haynes ..	750	263	256			728	
	Higham Gobion ..	40	8	0			0	
B	Hulcote & Salford ..	250	74	59			195	
B	Houghton Conquest ..	550	204	180			500	
DP	Husborne Crawley ..	360	113	15	80		43	252
B	Lidlington ..	750	254	130		125	345	398
B	Marston Moretaine ..	1600	493	475			1536	
A	Maulden ..	1680	484	385			1271	
B	Millbrook ..	200	48	38			158	
DB	Milton Bryan ..	175	53	50			164	
	Potsgrove ..	100	26	0	12		0	46
B	Pulloxhill ..	380	141	99			315	
DP	Ridgmont ..							
&B	(including Brogboro') ..	920	257	120	100		414	368
B	Shillington (including Lower Stondon) ..	2225	718	609			1947	
B	Silsoe ..	650	189	161			549	
B	Steppingley ..	250	64	61			235	
B	Tingrith ..	175	47	26			130	
B	Westoning ..	675	244	178			569	
DB	Woburn ..	950	287	282			931	
Total .....		22170	6954	5569	199	125	17650	1038

B—Birchmoor Supply.  
A—Amphthill Supply.

DB—Ducal Mains for Birchmoor Supply.  
DP—Ducal Private Supply.



Difficulty has been experienced in the higher points of the distribution area at Harlington and Pulloxhill, the heavy draw-off in the lower areas affecting their supplies at certain times of the day. Work is proceeding on the new borehole and water tower at Pulloxhill and when these are in operation ample supplies should be available at all times.

The sewerage at Flitwick, Westoning and Harlington now in progress is anticipated to increase the water consumption considerably and the Council is anxious to put the Pulloxhill supply into use as early as possible.

Similarly, with regard to the supply from the Ampthill U.D.C. source at Clophill, trouble was experienced during the summer when it became necessary to curtail supplies during the night; and in order to maintain supplies to consumers at the end of supply mains, water was conveyed by lorry.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage at Flitwick, Westoning and Harlington and the Disposal Works Construction at Flitwick has continued satisfactorily and is anticipated to be in use during 1951.

The total length of sewers laid is 7,034 yards, and 1,333 yards of pumping main. 88 Manholes have been constructed, and 1,801 yards of house connections laid.

The Disposal Works at Aspley Guise deal with Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath drainage, together with the Newport Pagnell R.D. parish of Woburn Sands in a joint drainage scheme.

New works are proposed, which would provide for the later connection of sewers from Husborne Crawley and Ridgmont in this district and additional parts of Newport Pagnell Rural District.

Woburn is principally owned by the Duke of Bedford, and is privately sewered to a Disposal Works owned and managed by the ducal estate office.

## 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been necessary.

## 4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn, except for outlying properties, have water closets.

In the remaining parishes a number of houses have water closets draining to cesspools, but the majority have earth closets with pails.

On the new housing estates, all Council Houses have water closets. Where the schemes are sufficiently large and suitable disposal works are provided and in other cases cesspool drainage.

## 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Fortnightly collections of house refuse have been continued in Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick, Harlington, Westoning and Woburn, and to the Council's prefabricated bungalow estate at Marston.

Monthly visits are made to the larger parishes of Clophill, Cranfield, Lidlington, Marston, Maulden, Shillington and Silsoe.

The remaining parishes have a collection at approximately two monthly intervals.

Carried out by direct labour, the work is done by two covered tipping motor vehicles. There are three tips on which rats are systematically destroyed by the rodent operator, flies are dealt with by tip dressing, and controlled tipping is exercised.

The emptying of closet pails has been continued in the sixteen parishes of Flitwick, Westoning, Harlington, Lidlington, Clophill, Maulden, Milton Bryan, Eversholt, Flitton, Pulloxhill, Ridgmont, Tingrith, Silsoe, Cranfield, Marston and Shillington, and during the year Houghton Conquest has been added.

Cesspools are emptied on request at intervals of not less than three months.

Direct labour is employed with six vacuum tank motor emptiers. The soil is disposed of by composting on straw lagoons.

## 6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of Sanitary and other defects reported on during the year :—

Premises with defective and insanitary Closets	..	..	..	13
"    "    "    "    "    "    Drains	..	..	..	15
"    "    "    "    "    Floors	..	..	..	24
"    "    "    "    "    Roofs, Chimneys and Spouting	..	..	..	33
"    "    "    "    "    Grates	..	..	..	13
"    "    "    "    "    Walls and Ceilings	..	..	..	37
"    "    "    "    "    Windows, Insufficient Light and Ventilation	..	..	..	21
"    "    "    "    "    Water Supply	..	..	..	14
"    "    "    "    "    Ashbins	..	..	..	3
Damp Premises	..	..	..	36
Dirty	..	..	..	3
Other Dilapidations	..	..	..	28
Unsound Meat and Food	..	..	..	13
Nuisance from Rats and Vermin	..	..	..	44
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	..	..	..	3
Samples of Water taken for Bacteriological Examination	..	..	..	9
Rooms disinfected after Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	26
"    "    "    "    "    Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
"    "    "    "    "    Cancer	..	..	..	1
"    "    "    "    "    Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1
Houses disinfested for Bed Bugs, Lice, etc.	..	..	..	20
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	6
"    "    Informal Notices served	..	..	..	162
"    "    Defective Premises	..	..	..	170

## 7. SHOPS AND PREMISES.

Five lock-up shops have certificates of exemption under Section 10 (2) and (6) of the Shops Act 1934, sanitary conveniences being available within a reasonable distance.

All other shops have sanitary accommodation on the premises for the use of assistants.

No cases of insufficient ventilation and heating were discovered. No action under Circular 1600 with regard to Offices was necessary.

## 8. CAMPING SITES.

(1) Number of Sites used for Camping in 1950 .. .. .	16
(2) „ „ „ „ licensed under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936 .. .. .	10
(3) Estimated number of Campers during the summer season .. .. .	50

These are mainly caravans on single sites used for living accommodation.

## 9. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary.

## 10. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

### (a) *Public.*

No swimming pools are owned by the Authority.

### (b) *Privately owned and open to the public.*

EVERSHOLT.—A small open air bath, supplied from a lake. Privately owned, managed by the Parish Council, the children of the parish are admitted free, a small charge is made to adults.

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY.—60,000 gallons capacity, fed from private water supply.

WOBURN.—Similar to Husborne Crawley, filled from main water supply.

All are emptied and refilled at intervals, and in the intervening periods chlorine solution is sprayed on the surface and the water agitated.

In addition to use by parishioners, the Education Authority utilise the three pools for instruction of school children who are conveyed from the surrounding villages by motor coach during the summer terms.

### (c) *Private Swimming Pools.*

HAWNES SCHOOL, HAYNES PARK.—An open air pool is provided for this girls' boarding school. A natural spring gives the pool a continuous flow.

THE KNOLL SCHOOL, ASPLEY HEATH.—A similar boarding school for boys, this has a small pool filled from the main water supply. It is periodically emptied and refilled.



## 11. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. (a) No Council Houses were found to be infested.

- (b) i. Four other houses were infested and  
 ii. dealt with by the Council.

2. The rooms and furniture were fumigated with "Parafog" generators followed where necessary by spraying with "Zaldecide" containing D.D.T.

Inspection is made of the furniture of a prospective tenant to ensure that it is free from vermin before removal to a Council House.

4. Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

5. Prevention of re-infestation after cleansing, is secured by re-inspection, advice and supervision.

## HOUSING

One hundred and ten Council Houses were completed during the year, making the number of post-war houses now occupied 637.

In July, inclusive of the pre-war houses, the Council reached the "one thousandth house," and a pleasing ceremony of the opening was performed when the Chairman of the Council handed the keys to the tenant before a large gathering, including members of the County Council, on the Flitwick estate. This now has 144 traditional houses and 37 aluminium bungalows completed and occupied.

Five requisitioned dwellings were relinquished, leaving thirteen accommodating 15 families, still under requisition. There has been one change of tenancy.

In five Council Houses the tenancy was transferred due to the death of the tenant, and in eight houses there has been a change of tenancy.

The Council purchased three semi-derelict cottages, two of which were vacant, reconditioned them and provided them with water and drainage. These now have three satisfied tenants. Three of the families rehoused were emergency cases, homeless by reason of ejection from tied houses, etc.

### *Rural Housing Survey.*

Details in connection with the records of 5,208 houses are checked at intervals in connection with which 353 houses were visited during the year.

Five notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 for repairs and one under Section 66 (overcrowding) were served.

## RODENT CONTROL.

A rodent operative was appointed in May 1950, and he received the Ministry of Agriculture's course of instruction. The Council's sewers and refuse dumps are systematically treated and all the Council Houses were inspected and treatment rendered where necessary.

In addition, 9 business premises and 26 dwelling houses were disinfested.

A flat rate charge of 4/- per hour of the operative's time is made to the occupier, which includes travelling expenses and the cost of poison and bait.

During the eight months period in which the work has been carried out, the number of dead rats discovered after treatment was 1,924.

In one case a threshing contractor was found infringing the regulations requiring the fencing of a rick during dismantling, and he was seriously cautioned. In order to discourage further non-compliance all threshing contractors known to work in the district were circularised with a copy of the regulations together with a warning that action would be taken if these were not observed.

A case of rat-borne disease affecting a man, occurred on a farm. In conjunction with the County Agricultural Pest Department the premises were disinfested.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

*(a) Milk Supply.*

There are 21 retail dairymen, and 73 producer-retailers. One retailer outside the District has a supplementary licence to sell Pasteurised milk; two have licences to bottle and retail Tuberculin Tested Milk; and two to retail Tuberculin Tested milk and Pasteurised milk which is purchased in bottles.

*(b) Meat and Other Foods.*

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—  
120 lbs. beef, 44 lbs. mutton, 35 lbs. bacon, 2 lbs. cheese, 14 tins meat, 40 tins milk  
5 tins vegetable, 5 tins fruit.

Eight new registrations were made for the sale of ice-cream, one for cooked fish and one for the manufacture of sausage.

Twenty-four licences to slaughter and stun under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were renewed, and two new slaughtermen licensed.

The licence of one slaughterhouse was renewed.

## THE SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	Church of England or Council	No. of Pupils on Roll Dec., 1950.	Average Attendance (Xmas Term).	Type of Closet	Boys	Girls	Infants	Disposal of Excreta	Drinking Water
Aspley Guise.....	C.P.J.M.	61	57	w.c.	2	3	1	Sewer	Main
Aspley Heath.....	C.P.	375	325	"	3	5	3	Sewer	Main
Asphill .....	V.P.J.M.	52	48	E.C.	4	5	2	Removed weekly	Main
Aspenfield .....	V.P.J.M.	184	158	"	5	6	0	Buried twice weekly	Main
Aversholt .....	C.P.J.M.	36	33	"	2	2	1	3 times weekly	Main
Aitwick .....	C.P.M.	236	217	w.c.	3	6	0	Removed twice weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Aitwick .....	C.P.I.	85	74	& CESSPOOL E.C.			4	Removed twice weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Avenhurst .....	C.P.J.M.	22	20	"	1	2	1	Pails emptied twice weekly	Main
Avenfield C. of E.	V.P.	46	40	"	2	3	0	Removed twice weekly	Main
Arlington .....	C.P.J.M.	42	39	"	3	3	2	Removed weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Ashby .....	C.P.J.M.	47	45	"	2	2	1	Earth Drying System twice weekly	Main
Aughton Conquest	C.P.J.M.	43	41	"	3	3	2	Earth Drying System Removed weekly	Main
Ausborne Crawley ..	C.P.J.M.	12	11	"	2	2	0	Buried 3 times weekly	Main
Aldington .....	C.P.J.M.	61	54	"	2	4		Removed weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Alder Stondon ....	C.P.J.M.	85	78	"	2	2	2	Earth Drying System 3 times weekly	Main
Alderton Moretaine ..	C.P.J.M.	98	78	"	2	2	0	Removed twice weekly	Main
Alderton Shelton ....	C.P.J.M.	45	42	"	2	3		Removed once weekly	Main
Alderton .....	C.P.	222	203	"	3	3	3	Earth Drying System twice weekly	Main
Aldbrook .....	C.P.J.M.	12	11	"	1	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Aldon Bryan.....	V.P.J.M.	13	12	"	2	1	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Aldoxhill .....	C.P.J.M.	13	12	"	1	2		Removed daily	Main
Aldmont .....	C.P.J.M.	89	82	"	2	3		Removed 3 times weekly	Main
Aldford & Hulcote ..	V.P.J.M.	22	19	"	2	2		Removed weekly	Main
Aldington .....	C.P.J.M.	88	81	"	1	2	1	Earth Drying System twice weekly	Main
Aldsoe .....	V.P.	42	36	"	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Aldpeppingley .....	C.P.J.M.	18	16	"	2	2	1	Buried weekly	Main
Aldrestoning .....	C.P.	86	79	"	3	3	2	Removed weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Aldoburn .....	C.P.J.M.	62	52	w.c.	2	1		Sewer	Main

SCHOOL CLOSURES. It was not necessary to close any of the schools during the year for health reasons.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board is the authority responsible for cases of infectious disease requiring admission to an Isolation Hospital. The Hospitals serving the District are the Steppingley Hospital and the Spittlesea Hospital.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

*Small Pox.*—No cases have been notified.

*Scarlet Fever.*—Thirty three cases were notified during the year: one half of these occurring in the Cranfield and Marston parishes, while five occurred in Harlington. The majority of cases occurred in the months of March and May, and the highest incidence occurred in the 5-10 year age group. Twelve of the cases were admitted to Spittlesea, and all the cases recovered.

*Diphtheria.*—No cases were notified.

*Pneumonia.*—Four cases were notified.

*Erysipelas.*—Six cases were notified.

*Measles.*—The decline of the number of cases reported in the latter months of last year continued into the early months of this year, but in the second quarter the incidence increased to epidemic proportions, one hundred and fifty five cases being notified. In the third quarter the number had fallen to fifty cases, while only a few cases were reported towards the end of the year. As can be seen in the table the majority of these cases occurred in the 5-10 year age group. This is an important factor since the incidence of broncho pneumonia, and therefore in the fatality rates of measles, occurs almost entirely among children under five years of age, and especially among those below the age of two years. No deaths resulted from this infection.

*Whooping Cough.*—Twenty-eight cases were notified.

*Dysentery.*—No cases were notified.

*Jaundice.*—Six cases were notified.

*Polio-myelitis.*—One case of this infection was notified.

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*—No cases were notified.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—No cases were notified.

*Food Poisoning.*—Five cases of food poisoning were reported in June, and it is almost certain that these persons were infected by eating food produced outside the district, where other similar cases were notified at about the same time.



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

VILLAGES.	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Jaundice	C.S.M.	Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia
Aspley Heath ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aspley Guise ..	8	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brogborough ..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Clophill ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cranfield ..	111	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Eversholt ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flitton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Flitwick ..	2	5	2	3	..	..	2	..	..	2
Gravenhurst ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenfield ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haynes ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harlington ..	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Houghton Conquest	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Husborne Crawley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lidlington ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lower Stondon ..	13	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Marston Moretaine	6	5	8	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Maulden ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Millbrook ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulloxhill ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salford & Hulcote	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharpenhoe ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shillington ..	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Silsoe ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westoning ..	33	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Woburn ..	10	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	213	28	33	6	5	..	6	..	1	4



## TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES &amp; MORTALITY.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 year to 5 years ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 years to 10 years ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
10 " 15 " .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
15 " 20 " .. ..	1+1*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 " 25 " .. ..	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 " 35 " .. ..	6+1*	2	1	1	1	..	..	..
35 " 45 " .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
45 " 55 " .. ..	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
55 " 65 " .. ..	..	1*	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 " and over ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	19+2*	6+1*	2	4	2	1	..	1

\* Transferred from another district.

## TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES &amp; MORTALITY.

Villages.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Aspley Heath .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Aspley Guise .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brogborough .. ..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Clophill .. ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cranfield .. ..	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Eversholt .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flitwick .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Flitton .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Gravenhurst .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenfield .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harlington .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Husborne Crawley ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Lidlington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maulden .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Milton Bryan .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marston .. ..	4	2	..	1	..	..	..	..
Ridgmont .. ..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Salford .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Silsoe .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shillington .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vestoning .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Woburn .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total..	21	7	2	4	2	1	..	1



## ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the County Council is responsible for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery or from the medical officer at any of the welfare centres or schools within the county.

The following figures are presented through information supplied by Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Northern Divisional Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1935).—

										ESTIMATED MID-YEAR CHILD POPULATION, 1950.		
AGE AT	UNDER									TOTAL	UNDER	TOTAL
31.12.50.	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL		UNDER	5	5-14
								UNDER				UNDER
								15				15
	16	195	213	281	204	1256	1305	3470		2024	3130	5154

These figures indicate that 44.9% of the child population under 5 years of age have been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 41.9% at the end of 1949. 81.8% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 82.7% at the end of the previous year. Thus 67.3% of the children under 15 years of age have been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

## CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

*Scabies.*

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at 10/- per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review 31 treatments were given.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 176. This is undertaken by the County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925,  
and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

No necessity for action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

One tuberculosis case that died had not been notified, therefore the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is 1/4.

# Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	8	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	47	42	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises) ..	14	14	—	—
TOTAL ..	69	64	2	—

## —CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	4			
Overcrowding (S.2) ..					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ..					
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..					
(c) Not separate for sexes ..					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
TOTAL ..	4	4	—	—	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

### OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Bearing apparel— Making, etc. ..	6	—	—	—	—	—

\* i.e., Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104), and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

